



Vocabulary: traffic and transport 词汇: 交通运输

Have you ever taken a taxi? In the past, doing so meant finding one, **flagging it down** and telling the driver where you wanted to go, paying, and possibly, adding a tip. And while this still happens, it's less common than it used to be. These days, it's much easier to open a **ride-hailing** app. All of the boring stuff gets taken care of. It's a perfect solution!

Except that it isn't. A recent report from urban transport consultant Bruce Schaller, who spent the last four years studying **traffic flow** in New York, concluded that the use of these app-based journeys is causing **traffic jams**. The 81% increase in these city-based rides means that there are now five times more of them than the iconic yellow taxicab.

"It's the shift in patronage from **public transport**," he told the BBC. For whatever reason, people decide that it's just too much hassle. "That means moving people from larger **vehicles** into smaller ones, which means more vehicles to move the same people. Therefore, more traffic." In addition, the sheer number of cars now looking for a **commuter** means that they spend 45% of their time empty, just **cruising for a fare**, and inadvertently **clogging up** the city's **infrastructure**.

"They are out there in force at the worst possible times," said Prof Christo Wilson, a computer scientist at Northeastern University, who has also studied the services. He refers to Uber's traffic data, which 'perfectly matches the peaks for the **rush hour**.' He also adds that the low fares and convenience mean that people are ordering rides to go **from A to B** when they wouldn't normally. Both help contribute to the **gridlock**.

So what can be done to stop traffic from **backing up** or **bottlenecking**? One solution involves combining ride-hailing with sharing. Many ride-hailing companies, such as Uber, Didi Chuxing in China and Ola in India enable customers to **carpool**. This allows travellers who share similar **destinations** to share the journey. The app enables an **en route pickup**, which means more **streamlined** traffic, and less time spent with an empty vehicle.

Could this **decongest** the world's **jam-packed** roads? It is certainly one solution. But maybe we shouldn't be so quick to dismiss the more traditional public transport options. "Congestion is a really complicated issue," said Andrew Salzberg, head of Uber's transport policy. But, "There is no more efficient way to move people around than public transport," he added. So don't do away with that bus pass just yet.

词汇表

flag down	挥手拦车
ride-hailing	叫车服务
traffic flow	交通流量
traffic jam	交通堵塞
public transport	公共交通
vehicle	(车辆等) 交通工具
commuter	通勤者
cruise for a fare	慢行寻找一位出租车乘客
clog up	使...堵塞
infrastructure	基础设施
rush hour	(上下班) 高峰期
from A to B	从一个地方到另一个地方
gridlock	(城市) 交通大瘫痪
back up	堵车
bottleneck	在狭窄路段堵车
carpool	拼车
destination	目的地
en route	在途中的
pickup	接人
streamlined	高效的
decongest	减轻、减缓交通拥堵
jam-packed	拥挤不堪的、水泄不通的

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. How many more ride-hailing vehicles are there in New York than traditional yellow taxis?
2. How much of a ride-hailing vehicle's time is spent empty?
3. Why are people taking ride-hailing vehicles than they normally would?
4. What solution to ease congestion do Uber, Didi Chuxing and Ola offer?
5. True or false: *Public transport will never be as good as ride-hailing.*

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. If you're going downtown, I wouldn't take 2nd avenue. It's _____ down there. You won't get through.

bottleneck	traffic jam	streamline	gridlock
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2. My friend and I are going on a driving holiday! We want to _____ along route 66!

flag down	clog up	cruise	back up
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3. He won't be long. He said he was _____ 10 minutes ago so another five minutes?

infrastructure	en route	streamline	jam-packed
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4. Please stop combing your hair in the shower! It _____ the drain!

bottlenecks	gridlock	blocks up	decongests
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5. Much of the country's _____ was damaged by the hurricane meaning roads are blocked and power is down.

public transport	rush hour	destination	infrastructure
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答案

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1. How many more ride-hailing vehicles are there in New York than traditional yellow taxis?

The 81% increase in these city-based rides in means that there are now five times more of them than the iconic yellow taxicab.

2. How much of a ride-hailing vehicle's time is spent empty?

They spend 45% of their time empty, just cruising for a fare, and inadvertently clogging up the city's infrastructure.

3. Why are people taking ride-hailing vehicles than they normally would?

Low fares and convenience mean that people are ordering rides to go from A to B when they wouldn't normally.

4. What solution to ease congestion do Uber, Didi Chuxing and Ola offer?

They enable customers to carpool.

5. True or false: *Public transport will never be as good as ride-hailing.*

False. According to Andrew Salzborg, there is no more efficient way to move people around than public transport.

2. 请在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. If you're going downtown, I wouldn't take 2nd avenue. It's **gridlock** down there. You won't get through

2. My friend and I are going on a driving holiday! We want to **cruise** along route 66!

3. He won't be long. He said he was **en route** 10 minutes ago so another five minutes

4. Please stop combing your hair in the shower! It **blocks up** the drain.

5. Much of the country's **infrastructure** was damaged by the hurricane meaning roads are blocked and power is down.